

V. Claims

I claim:

1. A modular jack connector, comprising:
 - a ground shield defining a receiving cavity open at a plug receiving face;
 - a dielectric housing mounted inside the ground shield receiving cavity, the dielectric housing defining a plug receiving cavity open on a first face thereof and an insert receiving cavity open to said plug receiving cavity;
 - a plurality of first terminal contacts mounted to said dielectric housing, each of said first terminal contacts having a spring beam and tail end portion, wherein the spring beam portion extends within the plug receiving cavity;
 - a plurality of second terminal contacts mounted to said dielectric housing, each second terminal contact having a spring beam and tail end portion, wherein the spring beam portion extends within the plug receiving cavity and wherein certain of said tail end portions of said second terminal contacts are electrically connected to certain of said tail end portions of said first terminal contacts; and
 - a switching block positioned to slideably move within said insert receiving cavity;
 - whereby insertion of a plug having a switching protrusion into the plug receiving cavity of the connector contacts and moves the switching block away from said plug receiving cavity breaking said electrical connections.
2. The connector of claim 1, wherein said plurality of first terminal contacts are mounted in a plurality of first contact receiving recesses in said dielectric housing and said plurality of second terminal contacts are mounted in a plurality of second contact receiving recesses.
3. The connector of claim 2, wherein said contact receiving recesses are substantially separated from each other.
4. The connector of claim 1, wherein said certain of said tail end portions of said second terminals are electrically connected to said certain of said tail end portions of said first terminal contacts by a plurality of switching contacts.
5. The connector of claim 4, wherein said electrical connections are broken by said switching block engaging said switching contacts.

6. The connector of claim 4, wherein each of said certain tail end portions of said first terminal contacts further comprise a switching pad and each of said switching contacts comprise a mating portion, said switch pad being in electrical contact with at least one mating pad.
7. The connector of claim 6, wherein said electrical connections are broken by said switching block engaging said switching contacts and breaking the electrical connection between said first terminal switching pads and said switching contact mating pads.
8. The connector of claim 1, wherein said certain of said first terminal contacts are electrically grounded when said electrical connections between said certain first and second terminal contacts are broken.
9. The connector of claim 8, wherein said grounding shield further defines a plurality of grounding springs extending inwardly towards said dielectric housing, said certain of said first terminal contacts being electrically connected to said grounding springs when said electrical connections between said certain first and second terminal contacts are broken.
10. The connector of claim 1, wherein said first terminal contacts comprise positions 1-8 of a Category 3-6 compliant plug.
11. The connector of claim 1, wherein said certain first terminal contacts comprise positions 3-6 of a Category 3-6 compliant plug.
12. The connector of claim 1, wherein said certain second terminal contacts comprise positions 3-6 of a Category 7 compliant plug.
13. A method for converting a jack from a first category of compliance to a second category of compliance, said jack comprising a switching block slideably mounted within an insert receiving cavity, and a plurality of first and second terminal contacts extending into a plug receiving cavity, certain of said first terminal contacts being electrically connected to certain of said second terminal contacts, said method comprising inserting a plug having a switching protrusion into said plug receiving cavity, said inserting causing said switching protrusion to engage and move said switching block within said insert receiving cavity, said moving of said switching block breaking said electrical connections.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said certain second terminal contacts are electrically connected to said certain first terminal contacts by a plurality of switching contacts.
15. The method of claim 13, wherein said electrical connections are broken by said switching block engaging said switching contacts.
16. The method of claim 13, wherein said certain first terminal contacts are electrically grounded when said electrical connections are broken.
17. The method of claim 16, wherein said jack further comprises a grounding shield and a plurality of grounding springs extending inwardly towards said plug receiving cavity, said certain first terminal contacts being electrically connected to said grounding springs when said electrical connections between said certain first and second terminal contacts are broken.
18. The connector of claim 13, wherein said first terminal contacts comprise positions 1-8 of a Category 3-6 compliant plug.
19. The connector of claim 13, wherein said certain first terminal contacts comprise positions 3-6 of a Category 3-6 compliant plug.
20. The connector of claim 13, wherein said certain second terminal contacts comprise positions 3-6 of a Category 7 compliant plug.